(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are no quantitative ceilings fixed for export of seeds for sowing or planting purposes. However, under the current Export-Import Policy, export of seeds and planting material listed in the Negative List of Exports Part II — Restricted Items is permitted subject to licencing. Export of such seeds is permitted keeping in view the domestic availability and demand.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Complaints regarding export of inferior quality of tea

2036. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI K.M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether repeated complaints have been made by the Russian importers about inferior quality of tea being supplied by Indian exporters;

(b) whether the Indian Embassy in Russia had earlier pointed out that the tea industry should take the issue of quality of tea being exported more seriously; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to enforce strict standards for testing the samples of tea prior to issue of export licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Complaints were received by the Tea Board in 1993 against a few Indian exporters for export of sub-standard and inferior quality teas to Russia and some of the CIS countries.

(b) Indian Embassy in Russia had sent reports in June, 1993 recommending quality control of tea exported to Russia.

(c) In order to enforce strict quality control in exports of tea to Russia, exporters have been advised to obtain quality certificates from SGS, India or any other agency recognised by the Russian importers before obtaining shipment licences for export to Russia/ CIS countries.

Impact of Beedi Production on market for Tobacco

2037. SHRI S. AUSTIN:
SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the beedi industry uses a lot of tobacco;

(b) whether Tobacco Board studied the impact of lowering beedi production on the market for tobacco; and

(c) if so, the details of such study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. About 30 percent of the Non-Virginia tobacco produced in the country is consumed by the beedi industry.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Export of wood and wood products

2038. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total quantity of wood and wood products exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to boost the exports of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.

CHIDAMBARAM): (a) the total exports of wood and wood products including wooden handicrafts during the last three years in value terms are as follows:

	Value: In Rs. crores	
1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
100.73	124.15	284.15

Source: Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council, Calcutta.

(b) The Government, Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council and Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts have been taking, on an on-going basis, several measures for the promotion of export of wood and wood products. These include besides Government's economic liberalisation measures, sponsoring sales-cum-study team to overseas countries, publicity campaign, participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad, availability of market development assistance etc.

Import and Export of Wheat

2039. SHRI RAM BAKHSH SINGH VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ordinary quality of wheat is being imported from foreign countries;

(b) whether inferior quality of wheat is being exported to foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No wheat has been imported in 1994-95.

(b) and (c) Against a quantitative ceiling of 3 lakh MTs of Durum wheat and 5 lakh MTs of Non-Durum wheat fixed for the year 1994-95, 17,058 MTs of wheat (Durum & Non-Durum) valued at Rs 10.91 crores has been exported during the period April-December, 1994.

Decline in exports to European countries

2040. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether exports of several Indian items to Europe has fallen at the end of last year and trade with European countries is in danger of declining as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated January 14, 1995;

(b) if so, what are the facts and details in this regard;

(c) what are the reasons for fall in exports to Europe;

(d) what is the quantum of annual exports and imports to and from Europe during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 and so far in 1994-95; and

(e) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to boost trade with the European countries and what is the impact of these steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the period April-December, 1994, the percentage growth in aggregate exports from India to Europe was 16.68% as compared to the corresponding period in 1993. The growth of aggregate exports includes marginal decline in exports of some items and increases in respect of others which is a normal feature.

(d) Quantum of annual exports to and imports from Europe from 1991-92 to December, 1994 are as under:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

	1991-92	*1992-93*	*1993-94*	*1994-95 (Apr.-Dec. 1994)*
Exports	18036.85	19300.95	21118.63	18850.62
Imports	17837.66	23087.23	26313.16	20131.93

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(e) Bilateral economic relations are periodically reviewed with the European